

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7-12, 18-22 and 30 are pending in the application and all stand rejected.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 19, 21 and 30 are amended.

Claims 1, 7-12, 18-22 and 30 are allowable over prior art.

This is an earnest attempt to put all pending claims in proper form for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following:

Amendments to the Specification

Minor changes have been made to the specification to correspond with Fig. 2. No new matter has been added. Entry of these changes is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 7-12, 18-22 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 8, 10, 19 and 21 are rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for reciting the limitation "the master private key" in the claims.

The rejections state on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action mailed May 27, 2008 that "it is unclear to the examiner as to which entity" . . . "is performing" a number of elements of the pending claims. Independent claims 1, 12 and 30 have been amended to clarify the claims with regard to this specific rejection and to clarify an embodiment of the disclosure for the pending claims.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 7-12, 18-22 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn and a notice of allowance of all of these independent claims and their respective dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 10, 19 and 21 have been amended, as required, to correct any antecedent basis issues with the phrase "master private key".

Therefore, the rejection of claims 8, 10, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn and a notice of allowance of all of these claims is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 7-12, 18-22 and 30 are found to be allowable over the prior art. See Office Action mailed May 27, 2008, page 4. Recognition of this by the Examiner is appreciated.

In light of this and all of the above, a notice of allowance of independent claims 1, 12 and 30 and their respective dependent claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art to which the Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

The amended claims are amended herein in order to expeditiously advance prosecution of this application. The amendments do not necessarily provide an indication that Applicants agree with any conclusions set forth in the Office Action regarding patentability of the claims including that a prima facie rejection is established by the references.

The amended claims are supported by the original application.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



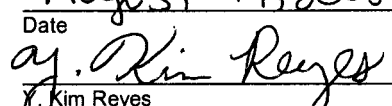
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, via EFS-Web, on the date indicated below:

on August 14, 2008
Date

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